

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF CROW.

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CORVUS BENNETTI, sp. nov.

Adult male.—General colour above and below, black glossed with purple; primaries and tail feathers black, slightly washed with bronzy-green; bases of the feathers on the upper parts snow-white; bill and legs black; iris white. Total length, 16 inches; wing, 12.3 inches; tail, 7.3 inches; bill, 1.85 inch; tarsus, 2.2 inches.

Adult female.—Similar in plumage to the male.

Habitat.—Moolah, Western New South Wales.

This species, with which I have associated the name of its collector, the late Mr. Kenric Harold Bennett, is also found in some parts of Victoria and South Australia. It may be distinguished principally by its much smaller and straighter bill, its average smaller measurements, and by having the iris pure white in the adults of both sexes. I purpose to distinguish it by the vernacular name of the Small-billed Crow.

The eggs of this species vary from three to five in number for a sitting, are oval or elongate-oval in form, the shell being close-grained and its surface lustrous. The ground colour is of a very pale greenish-grey, which is almost uniformly marked all over with numerous very fine scratches of light umber, and in some specimens are intermingled on the larger end with dots, spots, and small blotches of olive-brown. Length—(A), 1.65 x 1.02 inch; (B), 1.75 x 1 inch; (C), 1.67 x 1.03 inch.

A full account of habits, nidification, &c., will be shortly published in Part i. of "Nests and Eggs of Australian Birds," now in the press.

For the purpose of comparison Vigors and Horsfield's measurements are here given from their original description of *Corvus coronoides* in the Transactions of the Linnean Society of London. Total length, 22 inches; wing, 14 inches; tail, 9 inches; bill, 2.3 inches; tarsus, 2.3 inches.

The bills of three average specimens of *C. coronoides* and *C. bennetti* measure as follows:—

<i>C. coronoides.</i>				
Length of Bill.	Height at Nostril.	Width at Nostril.		Locality.
2.2 in. ...	0.8 in. ...	0.7 in. ...		Clarence River, N.S.W.
2.2 in. ...	0.8 in. ...	0.7 in. ...		Wide Bay, Queensland.
2.27 in. ...	0.82 in. ...	0.7 in. ...		Port Darwin, Northern Territory of South Australia
<i>C. bennetti.</i>				
1.9 in. ...	0.67 in. ...	0.65 in. ...		Moolah, Western N.S.W.
1.85 in. ...	0.66 in. ...	0.66 in. ...		" "
1.85 in. ...	0.65 in. ...	0.65 in. ...		" "